

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An output time management apparatus comprising:

a time counter for measuring an accumulation time representing the time elapsed from the start of outputting object data by an output means,

a comparator for comparing a predetermined upper limit time for which the output of said object data is permitted and said accumulation time measured by said time counter, and

a controller for controlling the output of said object data on the basis of the comparison results by said comparator,

wherein the output time management apparatus acquires ~~at least part of the information readable for the output time management apparatus~~ an output time management program and the object data from an external medium ~~as an output time management program and the object data, the external medium~~ including a storage medium, storage device, or storage apparatus which is capable of ~~having the storing information and giving the information to the output time management apparatus,~~ readable for the output time management apparatus, the information containing the output time management program and the object data, the output time management program being executed for controlling the output of said object data by the controller.

2. (Original) The output time management apparatus of claim 1 wherein said output means is display means for displaying said object data.

3. (Withdrawn) The output time management apparatus of claim 1 wherein said output means is sound output means for outputting said object data by sound.

4. (Withdrawn) The output time management apparatus of claim 1 wherein when said accumulation time measured by said time counter reaches said upper limit time, said controller erases said object data.

5. (Original) The output time management apparatus of claim 1 wherein when said accumulation time measured by said time counter reaches said upper limit time, said controller stops the output of said object data by said output means.

6. (Withdrawn) The output time management apparatus of claim 5 wherein said object data is data to which can be added writing and,

the output time management apparatus further comprises storage means for storing said object data when said accumulation time measured by said time counter reaches said upper limit time, and additional data is not written to said object after when said accumulation time reaches said upper limit time.

7. (Withdrawn) The output time management apparatus of claim 6 wherein said object data is data which is sent and received via a network and,

the output time management apparatus further comprises receiving means for receiving said object data from a distribution source, and

sending means for sending said object data stored by storage means to the distribution source.

8. (Withdrawn) The output time management apparatus of claim 1 wherein said object data is data sent and received via a network,

the output time management apparatus comprises receiving means for receiving said object data from a distribution source and sending means for sending said object data to the distribution source, and

wherein when said accumulation time measured by said time counter reaches said upper limit time, said controller suspends the output of said object data by said output means and said sending means sends said object data to the distribution source.

9. (Original) The output time management apparatus of claim 1 which further comprises a timer to count time, and

wherein said time counter measures said accumulation time utilizing the time counted by said timer.

10. (Previously Presented) The output time management apparatus of claim 1 which further comprises time information acquisition means for acquiring time information from an outside apparatus connected to the output time management apparatus and having the time information, and

wherein said time counter measures said accumulation time by utilizing the time information acquired by said time information acquisition means.

11. (Withdrawn) The output time management apparatus of claim 1 wherein said upper limit time information is embedded in said object data.

12. (Withdrawn) The output time management apparatus of claim 11 wherein said upper limit time information is embedded in said object data by digital watermark method.

13. (Withdrawn) The output time management apparatus of claim 1 which further comprises receiving means for receiving a information to erase or change said upper limit time via network, and

wherein said controller controls the output of said object data by utilizing the information to erase or change said upper limit time received by said receiving means.

14. (Currently Amended) An output time management system comprising:
a data sending apparatus for sending data via a network,
a data receiving apparatus for receiving said data sent from said data sending apparatus,
an output apparatus for outputting said data received by said data receiving apparatus,
a time counting apparatus for measuring an accumulation time representing the time elapsed from start of outputting object data by said output apparatus,
a comparison apparatus for comparing a predetermined upper limit time for which the output of said object data is permitted and said accumulation time measured by said time counting apparatus, and
a control apparatus for controlling the output of said object data on the basis of the comparison results by said comparison apparatus,

wherein the control apparatus acquires ~~at least a part of the information readable for the data receiving apparatus~~ an output time management program and the object data from the data sending apparatus ~~as an output time management program and the object data~~, and controls the output of the object data by executing the output time management program.

15. (Currently Amended) An output time management system comprising:

- a storing apparatus for storing data on a storing medium,
- a reading apparatus for reading ~~said data as~~ object data and ~~storing~~ an output time management program stored by said storing apparatus from the storing medium,
- an output apparatus for ~~outputting~~ performing an output based on processed data,
- a time counting apparatus for measuring an accumulation time representing the time elapsed from start of outputting said object data by said output apparatus,
- a comparison apparatus for comparing a predetermined upper limit time for which the output of said object data is permitted and said accumulation time measured by said time counting apparatus, and
- a control apparatus for controlling the output of said object data on the basis of a comparison result by said comparison apparatus,

wherein the control apparatus acquires ~~at least a part of the information readable for the data receiving apparatus from the data sending apparatus as an output time management program and the object data~~ the output time management program and the object data by the reading apparatus, and controls the output of said object data by executing the output time management program.

16. (Currently Amended) An output time management method comprising:

- a time counting step for measuring an accumulation time representing the time elapsed from start of outputting object data by output means,
- a comparing step for comparing a predetermined upper limit time for which the output of said object data is permitted and said accumulation time measured in said time counting step, and

a controlling step for controlling the output of said object data on the basis of a comparison result in said comparing step,

wherein said controlling step comprises acquiring ~~at least a part of the information readable for an output time management apparatus from an external medium as an output time management program and the object data~~ from an external medium, the external medium including a storage medium, storage device, or storage apparatus which is capable of having the storing information readable for the output time management apparatus and giving the information to the output time management apparatus, the information containing the output time management program and the object data, and controlling the output of said object data by executing the output time management program.

17. (Currently Amended) A program which makes a computer operate as an output time management apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

a time counter for measuring an accumulation time representing the time elapsed from start of outputting object data by output means,

a comparator for comparing a predetermined upper limit time for which the output of said object data is permitted and said accumulation time measured by said time counter, and

a controller for controlling the output of said object data on the basis of a comparison results by said comparator,

wherein said controller acquires ~~at least a part of the information readable for the output time management apparatus~~ an output time management program and the object data from an external medium ~~as an output time management program and the object data, the external medium~~ including a storage medium, storage device, or storage apparatus which is capable of ~~having the~~ storing information readable for the output time management apparatus and giving the

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information to the computer the output time management apparatus, the information containing the output time management program and the object data, and controls the output of said object data by executing the output time management program.